



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2005**

**Grade 4
Reading**

Reading

1 The word funny rhymes with

- A. jumpy.
- B. money.
- C. silly.
- D. funky.

We pushed the heavy chair against the wall.

2 In this sentence, the word pushed means

- A. sat in.
- B. noticed.
- C. shoved.
- D. played with.

Read this story about Raccoon and Mrs. Cottontail. Then answer the questions that follow.

How to Use an Umbrella

by Marilyn Kratz

“Happy birthday, Mrs. Cottontail!” said Raccoon. He handed her a big box wrapped in striped paper.

“Thank you, Raccoon,” said Mrs. Cottontail. “Please have a piece of my birthday cake while I open the gift you brought.”

“I hope you like it,” said Raccoon.

“I’m sure I will,” said Mrs. Cottontail. But when she lifted a blue umbrella from the box, she looked puzzled.

“It’s an umbrella,” said Raccoon.

“I see,” said Mrs. Cottontail, looking at it carefully.

Oh, my, thought Raccoon. She doesn’t know how to use it. If I tell her, she might be embarrassed.

Raccoon finished his cake. “Thank you for the cake,” he said, and he hurried away. He wondered if he should have explained how to use the umbrella.

The next day, the sun beamed down. “Perhaps Mrs. Cottontail will use the umbrella to keep cool today,” said Raccoon to himself. “I’ll stroll past her home and see.”

But when Raccoon saw Mrs. Cottontail, she didn’t have the umbrella.

11 “It’s really hot today, isn’t it?” Raccoon hinted.

“Yes, I love to feel the warm sunshine,” said Mrs. Cottontail. “It was such a long, cold winter.”

The next day, the wind blew across the meadow. “The umbrella would keep the wind from blowing on Mrs. Cottontail,” said Raccoon. He headed for her home, but on the way, he saw her picking grass in the meadow.

“Isn’t this a wonderful breeze?” she called to Raccoon. “I enjoy the way it ruffles my fur!”

Raccoon sighed.

The next morning, rain pattered down.

“Today Mrs. Cottontail will discover how to use the umbrella,” Raccoon told himself. He hurried to her home. But she was not out in the rain with her umbrella.

“Mrs. Cottontail will never know what a useful gift I gave her,” Raccoon said sadly, turning to go home. He felt too embarrassed to tell her now.

Then Raccoon heard Mrs. Cottontail calling. "Raccoon! Come in, please. I have something to show you."

Raccoon stepped inside. There he saw the wide-open umbrella resting on the floor with the handle sticking up.

Snuggled in the bowl-shaped umbrella were Mrs. Cottontail's five baby bunnies.

"What a useful gift you gave me," said Mrs. Cottontail, smiling proudly at her bunnies. "Now I can rock all my babies to sleep at once."

Raccoon stared at the bunnies in the umbrella. Then he smiled, too. "Yes," he agreed. "An umbrella has many uses."



3 How does Mrs. Cottontail feel when she opens her gift?

- A. pleased
- B. thankful
- C. unsure
- D. uninterested

4 Why does Raccoon hurry away from Mrs. Cottontail?

- A. He has finished eating his piece of cake.
- B. He is worried that he has bought the wrong gift.
- C. He is late for another birthday party.
- D. He cannot remember how to use the umbrella.

5 What is the way Raccoon **first** hopes Mrs. Cottontail will use the umbrella?

- A. to hold her babies
- B. to stay out of the hot sun
- C. to stay dry in the rain
- D. to block the strong wind

I'll stroll past her home and see.

6 The word stroll means

- A. hide.
- B. run.
- C. walk.
- D. wait.

- 7 If something is useful, it is full of uses.

Fill in the chart by listing **three** things that are useful. Then explain why these things are useful. Things do not need to be from the story.

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Write your own sentence about something that is useful.

- 8** In paragraph 11, why does Raccoon say, “It’s really hot today, isn’t it?”
- A. He is happy that the day is warm.
 - B. He is worried the summer will be hot.
 - C. He wants to use the umbrella to keep himself cool.
 - D. He hopes Mrs. Cottontail will use her umbrella.
- 10** What is the **main** problem in this story?
- A. Mrs. Cottontail does not like her new umbrella.
 - B. Mrs. Cottontail needs an umbrella for her babies.
 - C. Raccoon worries whether Mrs. Cottontail will use her umbrella.
 - D. Raccoon wants to buy a better umbrella for Mrs. Cottontail.

“Isn’t this a wonderful breeze?” she called to Raccoon. “I enjoy the way it ruffles my fur!”

- 9** The word ruffles means
- A. moves.
 - B. cleans.
 - C. warms.
 - D. dries.
- 11** What lesson does Raccoon learn in this story?
- A. Things can be used in unexpected ways.
 - B. Not everyone likes what is given to them.
 - C. Most things can be used only one way.
 - D. It is best to give people what they ask for.

- 12 At the end of the story, Raccoon says, “An umbrella has many uses.” Use details from the story to explain what Raccoon means.

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Grade 4 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand¹	WV	WV	LI	LA	LI	WV	WV	LI	WV	LI	LA	LI
GLE Code	3-1	3-3	3-4	3-5	3-4	3-2	3-3	3-4	3-2	3-4	3-5	3-4
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Item Type²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	B	C	C	B	B	C	D	A	C	A		
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple-Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2005**

**Grade 4
Reading**

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

- 7 If something is useful, it is full of uses.

Fill in the chart by listing **three** things that are useful. Then explain why these things are useful. Things do not need to be from the story.

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Write your own sentence about something that is useful.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a total of six correct entries in the chart. Response provides a correct original sentence or phrase about something that is useful.
3	Response provides a total of five or six correct entries in the chart. Response provides a correct definition of the word “useful,” rather than an original sentence or phrase about something that is useful.
2	Response provides a total of three or four correct entries in the chart. Response provides an original sentence or phrase about something that is useful. OR Response provides a total of five or six correct entries in the chart. Response does not include a correct original sentence or phrase about something that is useful or a correct definition of the word “useful.”
1	Response provides a total of one or two correct entries in the chart. Response may or may not include a correct original sentence or phrase about something that is useful. OR Response provides a total of three or four correct entries in the chart. Response does not include a correct original sentence or phrase about something that is useful. OR Response provides a correct sentence about something that is useful, but does not include any entries in the chart.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

Training Notes:

Examples:

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1. a tool	1. to fix something
2. a car	2. to get somewhere
3.	3.

In the chart, accept any plausible response.

Accept any sentence or phrase that reflects an accurate understanding of the word “useful.”

Do not score the sentence or phrase based on correct use of writing conventions (i.e., spelling, subject/verb agreement, or punctuation).

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 4

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1. a sled	1. to have fun in snow.
2. a book	2. to read
3. a blanket	3. to stay warm in bed.

You can use a stove to make good warm food. That is useful.

The response provides six correct entries in the chart and a correct sentence about something that is useful.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 3

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1. shoes	1. feet won't get scraped
2. socks	2. to keep feet warm
3. broom	3. to sweep out dirt

if you use something a lot
it has many uses.

The response provides six correct entries in the chart and a definition of, rather than a sentence or phrase about, something that is useful.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 2

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1. <i>cup</i>	1. <i>to drink in it</i>
2. <i>Sox</i>	2. <i>they keep our feet warm</i>
3. <i>pen</i>	3. <i>they help you write.</i>

The response provides six correct entries in the chart but does not provide a sentence or phrase about something that is useful.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 1

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1. glue	1. a coat
2. book	2. gloves
3. phone	3. hat

The response provides three correct entries in the chart but does not provide a sentence or phrase about something that is useful.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 0

Things that are useful:	Why these things are useful:
Example: a hat	Example: to keep warm
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

I not like to do my Homework when I get home after school and when I get off the bus.

The response is irrelevant.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

- ⑫ At the end of the story, Raccoon says, “An umbrella has many uses.” Use details from the story to explain what Raccoon means.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of what Raccoon means by “An umbrella has many uses.” Response includes relevant details from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of what Raccoon means by “An umbrella has many uses.” Response includes some details from the story.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of what Raccoon means by “An umbrella has many uses.” Response includes limited details from the story.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

What Raccoon means by “An umbrella has many uses”:

Raccoon thought that Mrs. Cottontail could use the umbrella

- to keep the hot sun from beating down on her head,
- to block the wind from blowing on her, and
- to keep her dry in the rain.

Raccoon learned that Mrs. Cottontail could also use an umbrella as a cradle for her babies.

SCORE POINT 4

Raccoon means you can use an umbrella for so many different things. For example Raccoon want Mrs. Cottontail to use the umbrella to keep cool on a hot day, to stay out of the rain and to keep the wind from blowing on her. Unforchewnetly Mrs. Cottontail uses the umbrella for rocking her babbies to sleep.

The response provides a thorough explanation of what Raccoon means by the statement "An umbrella has many uses" and includes relevant details from the story as support.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 3

Raccoon means that you can use an umbrella for keeping dry in rainy weather. You can use an umbrella when it is hot or you can use an umbrella for windy weather or to hold baby bunnies.

The response provides an explanation of what Raccoon means by the statement "An umbrella has many uses" and includes some details from the story as support.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 2

What Raccoon means is the umbrella can be used for many things. The umbrella can be used other things and not just for rain, sunshine or wind. An Umbrella can be used for mostly anything.

The response provides a partial explanation of what Raccoon means by the statement "An umbrella has many uses" and includes some details from the story as support.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 1

What he means is
an umbrella can be used
in different ways.

The response provides a vague explanation of what Raccoon means by the statement "An umbrella has many uses."

SCORE POINT 0

I think that Raccoon
mean, that a new
umbrella is better than
a older one.

The response is incorrect.